

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A stacking device comprising:

a stacking surface having a configuration for supporting at least one supported article of manufacture stacked on top of said stacking surface; and,

and a support surface opposite said stacking surface, said support surface having a configuration for direct communication with at least one supporting article of manufacture below said support surface;

said stacking surface and support surface supporting a vertical stacking of articles of manufacture without assistance from other support structures.

2. (Currently Amended) The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said support surface comprises a polygon ~~having a surface area which exceeds a surface area of said at least one supporting article of manufacture.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said support surface comprises an ellipse ~~having a diameter which exceeds a diameter of said at least one supporting article of manufacture.~~

4. (Originally Filed) The stacking device claim 1, wherein said stacking surface and said support surface comprise a machine washable material.

5. (Originally Filed) The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said stacking surface and said support surface comprise a heat resistant material suitable for use in an oven.

6. (Currently Amended) The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said support surface has a configuration for direct communication with at least one supporting article of manufacture is a wire mesh shelf.

7. (Currently Amended) A stacking system comprising a plurality of stacking devices, each of said stacking devices comprising a stacking surface having a configuration for supporting a supported article of manufacture stacked on top of said stacking surface, and and a support surface opposite said stacking surface, said support surface having a configuration for direct communication with a supporting article of manufacture below said support surface, said stacking surface and support surface supporting a vertical stacking of articles of manufacture without assistance from other support structures, wherein at least two of said stacking devices comprise differing surface areas for supporting articles of manufacture of different shapes and sizes.